Purchase of power plant from abroad by Reliance Industries.

1371. SHRI A.G. KULKARNI:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASANT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express of 8th September, 1986 regarding import of a power plant of 25 MW capacity by the Reliance Industries;

(b) if so, whether customs duty was duly paid on the plant;

(c) what was the price assumed for charging the customs duty; and

(d) whether his Minisry has examined as to whether the power plant consists of 3 boilers and 3 gas turbines of West German origin or it is from John Brown of U.K. and what was the quantum of foerign exchange permitted for purchase of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) M|s. Reliance Industries Limited have cleared four consignments of steam generation equipment and have paid the Import Duty provisionally assessed by the Custom Authorities at Bombay. 12 other import consignments are under clearance. The value of the four consignments as declared by the Importer is approx. Rs. 8.23 crores. The foreign suppliers indicated are M|s. John Brown Engineers and Constructors Limited; U.K.

closure of dailies run by National Herald management

1372. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to starred Question 185 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 1986 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Herald management has closed down all editions of its dailies; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the workers and journalists have been paid statutory compensation as per rules, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of employees who have not been paid dues as per rules;

(d) whether the management of National Herald obtained statutory permission to close down its units; if so, when;

(e) if not, whether any prosecution has been initiated in this regard; and

(f) whether Government propose to restart these two newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (f) According to information received from the Delhi Administration, the management have suspended publication of the Delhi editions of 'National Herald' and 'Quami Awaz' from 19.4.86. There has been no closure of the establishment declared in accordance with the relevant provision of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Information in respect of establishments publishing the Lucknow editions of the two dailies which fall within the purview of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the appropriate authority under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 is not available.

Raids on New Tobacco Company

1373. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the news-item published in the "Illustrated Weekly" on September 28, 1986 and in the "Onlooker" on September 15—30, 1986 relating to the raids on New Tobacco Company;

(b) whether the increased tendency of using nationalised banks and Stock Exchanges for manipulaing share prices either to acquire new companies or personal benefits will be checked; if so, in what manner; and

(c) whether Government propose to evolve a national policy to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Stock Exchange regulate transactions in securities and take measures to control manipulation under various powes vested in them. In this context, some o ther policy initiatives are also under consideration, including establishment of a securities commission or Council.

Production of free yarn

1374. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of free yarn quantity-wise for civil consumption in hank and cone formused by handloom and powerloom sector during the period 1980—85;

(b) houw much of the hank yarn was used by handloom sector and what was its production during the above period; and

(c) what was the production of handloom cloth during the period 1980—85 year-wise and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Quantity of yarn supplied for civil consumption in hank and cone form used by handloom and powerloom sectors during the period 1980—85 is given below:

(In million Kg.)

Year	Handloom sector	Powerloom sector
1980-81	331	311
1981-82	326	348
1982-83	331	446
1983-84	343	389
1984-85	357	406
TOTAL	1688	1800

(b) and (c) It is assumed that all deliveries of yarn in hank form were consumed by the handloom sector.

The production of handloom cloth during the period 1980—85 was as follows:

(Cloth production by Handloom Sector in million metres)

Year	Cotton cloth	Blended/Mixed	100% Non Cotton	Total
1980-81	2600	60	20	2680
1981-82	2540	60	26	2626
1982-83	2730	40	18	2788
1983-84	2889	39	28	2956
1984-85	3073	38	26	3137